

Hafa Adai!

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\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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HNP suspends subsistence benefits

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Health Network Program, formerly known as the Medical Referral Program, has announced that it will be suspending subsistence benefits this month due to lack of funding.

Last month, the program, under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., sent out a letter to its beneficiaries regrettably informing them that their subsistence benefits will be suspended Sept. 1, 2024.

Subsistence funding is money given to patients referred off-island for medical

treatment—and their primary escort—for essential resources like food.

“We regret to inform you

that beginning Sept. 1, 2024, subsistence benefits will be suspended until adequate funding for the beneficiaries is

appropriated and made available to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.,” said the letter.

See HNP on Page 4

Judiciary awarded \$850K in grants to address critical security needs

» **CHCC**
awarded
\$1.45M

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
delatorreferdie@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI Judiciary was awarded \$850,000 in Byrne Discretionary Community Project



Sablan

Grants funding to address its critical security needs, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) over the weekend.

See JUDICIARY on Page 4

Betty Terlaje named CUC CFO

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has finally named a new chief financial officer and it is no other than their very own chief of Administration Betty Terlaje.

Back in July, the CUC board of directors had named

a new CFO, an off-island candidate who remained unidentified pending acceptance of the position.

However, *Saipan Tribune* learned that the individual rescinded their application essentially declining the CFO position.

Unbeknownst to the pub-

lic, CUC's very own Terlaje, whose background is finance but has served in numerous capacities under CUC to include acting executive director, had applied for the position.

Over the weekend, *Saipan Tribune* learned that the CUC board of directors chose to offer the CFO position to Terlaje who has been considered and vetted by the

See BETTY on Page 4

Yan Che Magofna named Saipan's overall gov't employee of the year

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Yesterday, in the spirit of camaraderie, all CNMI government departments and agencies came out to the Garapan Fishing Base for a fun-filled day in celebration of Labor Day. During the celebration, the CNMI government honored 19 individuals from different government entities on Saipan who were named “employee of the year,”

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**

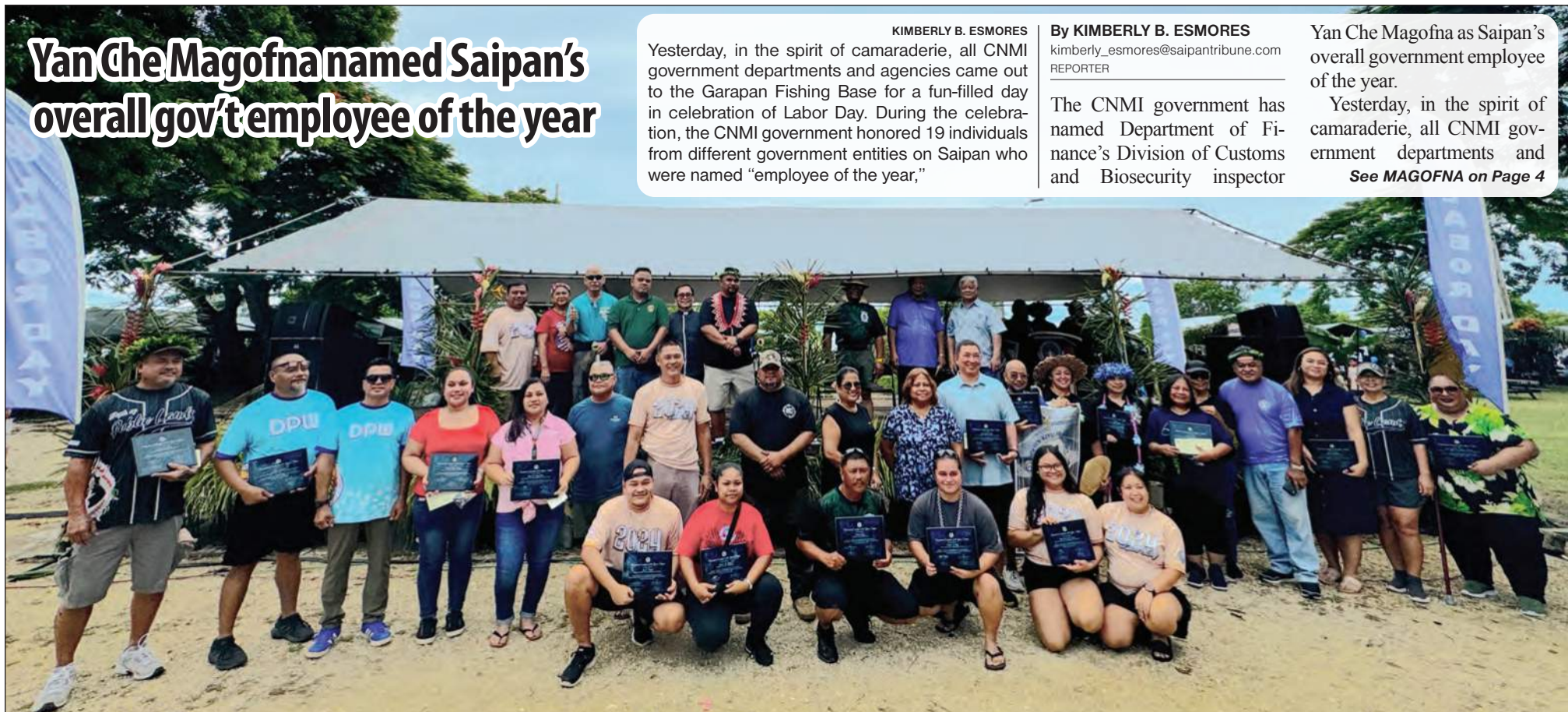
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government has named Department of Finance's Division of Customs and Biosecurity inspector

Yan Che Magofna as Saipan's overall government employee of the year.

Yesterday, in the spirit of camaraderie, all CNMI government departments and

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INSIDE

LOCAL

Marianas Eagles and Marianas Lady Eagles Clubs held a masquerade-themed event to celebrate their first anniversary last Aug. 25 at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

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LOCAL

Erica Jonette C. Leon Guerrero from Oregon State University has been selected as a 2024 Ocean Science Intern in the Science & Engineering Internship Program.

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SUPPLEMENT

From barbecues to getaways to shopping the sales, many people across the U.S. mark Labor Day—the federal holiday celebrating the American worker—by finding ways to relax.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

VOX POPULI: LABOR DAY

What was your first job?

By SAIPAN TRIBUNE STAFF

Saipan Tribune staff asked community member what their first jobs were as the CNMI celebrates Labor Day. Below are their responses.



I started working when I was in high school. My first office job was when I came back from college and worked in the Department of Lands and Natural Resources as a marketing specialist for Agriculture and Fisheries development.

I learned, through my first job, that island communities are resilient. Struggles are relative. Every governor, every year, every government entity has challenges, but we continue to roll up our sleeves and take on the challenges and problems and continue to keep going.

—Gov. Arnold I. Palacios

I got my first job when I was 18 years old, when I joined the military. I spent 20 years in the military before I retired. In my years as a service member, I learned many things.

My time in the military

taught me many things, especially what it takes to be a leader. Aside from that, there are many other things you learn in the military especially in my time in Vietnam. I'll never forget.

However, today's world is very different from back then. It's more high tech and you have to continue to adapt.

—Lt. Gov. David Apatang

In high school, I worked at the Capitol Hill post office for my dad. My salary was about \$10 a week. My schedule was after school and half day on Saturday.

Then I worked at Joeten Enterprises for two years doing about everything that needed to be done. Not sure how much I was earning.

In NYC, while finishing high school, I worked at a chain grocery store. Also worked at a fashion garment company delivering new clothes to a modeling agency.

I then worked for about 36-38 years operating Herman's Bakery except for years I was in the CNMI Legislature (4th, 5th, and 6th Senate for a total of six years).

After I left the Senate, I started many businesses including the American Express

local representative, general representative for Western Union, a security guard agency, construction, travel agency, and a few other companies.

In the last three years, I decided to help out a friend to do construction rehabilitation works on Rota. I have been doing projects on Rota for PSS, RHC, Judiciary, Valentino Hotel, and building and rehabing houses for the CDBG program, and many private houses.

I also opened Island A Heart with my wife Eva.

—Juan Pan Guerrero

My journey from a 17-year-old distribution technician at Pan Jin Garment Factory to a CNMI island coordinator for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and a contractor for a science, engineering, and technology company in the U.S. mainland is a testament to what dedication and work ethic can achieve.

On Labor Day, I now reflect on my humble beginnings at the garment factory, where my team was responsible for managing the distribution of materials and finished products. This role, though entry level, taught me the value of disci-

pline, attention to detail, and the importance of teamwork—skills that would later become the foundation of my career.

As the years passed, my ambition drove me to seek opportunities for growth. I pursued further education and took on various roles within different organizations, each one building on the last. My hard work and perseverance paid off, from program manager positions to director, to being a CNMI island coordinator for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

I also balance a part-time role as a contractor for Lynker, a Maryland-based company focused on environmental solutions. This position allows me to apply my expertise on a broader scale, contributing to projects that have a positive impact both locally and internationally.

—Floyd Masga

I first worked at Hopwood Junior High School in 1981 at \$14,000 a year and two weeks off during the summer when school was out. I taught general science and P.E.

I then moved to MHS in 1984 and started teaching social studies, P.E., and health class.

—James Feger

My first job was a science teacher at Cha Cha Oceanview Junior High School here on Saipan. I taught middle school

science to 8th graders.

I am currently an employee of the federal government helping to better

lives of the people in our community.

—Mike Mercado

My first culinary job was as a kitchen helper at Guernica's, a Spanish-themed restaurant in Makati, Philippines during the late 1980s. During my time there, I was washing dishes, helping around in the kitchen, and working with the chefs. During my time there, I was paid 106 Philippine pesos per day, or around \$2 now.

As of 2019, I've been working at Pacific Islands Club Saipan as a chef de cuisine. I closely collaborate with Jun Evangelista, our current executive sous chef, and work with multiple departments and help/oversee daily culinary operations.

—William Retardo

My first job was in Jollibee New Farmers Plaza, Philippines at the age of 18 as an all-around crew. I now work at the CHCC H.O.M.E. Visiting Program as a community health outreach worker.

—Rowena Coloma

I graduated in 2006 with Bachelor of Science in Accountancy at the age of 21, and started working at Rusty Lopez Enterprises, Inc. as accounting staff. I now work as an accountant at the Northern Marianas College.

—Maureen Claveria

I was a waitress in a small Japanese restaurant, Yaki-tori Glad, in Honolulu, Hawaii and ended up staying there for five years while working two other jobs throughout college. I have been with PSS Mental Health for the past four years.

—Antonette Labausa

This is my first job here at Shell and I'm currently a

customer service agent. We try to show hospitality to the community. I've been working since January of this year,

and I actually really like it because it made me open up more. I was kind of shy before but thanks to

Shell, it made me open up and I got to know more people and I'm really appreciative of the opportunity. To the younger ones looking for a job, just go out there and try. You never know until you try. Just put yourself out there.

—Frankie Jess Ramon

My very first job was as a receptionist at Pacific Coast To Coast in 1993. I established my own mobile notary business through three counties in California, which opened the door to become a mortgage loan officer for Mortgage Solutions, PNC Mortgage, Travis Credit Union, and Investors Solution from June 2005 to July 2020. During my time in the States, around

2019, I also began my home-based business in California, Designer Wreath & Co., and through this I would create custom-made Christmas wreaths and because I love the spirit of Christmas and I love crafting. I wouldn't make profit from it, only charging for the materials. It's something that I'm passionate about, which is why since I've been on island I have made over 100 custom wreaths for families. My most recent endeavor is helping found an organization focused on preserving our islands language, music, and heritage. I currently am the president of Save The Music Foundation-CNMI, and our goal and mission benefits all our youth and our community through music education, preserving our language, our culture and our heritage.

—Arlene Reyes

My first job was in 2009, working at DFS before it became T Galleria, I was a promoter for the fragrance department, after a couple of months or so, was transferred to the warehouse department for them, overall working at DFS for about five years. After that I was moved to the hospital

See WHAT on Page 4



CEDA

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Monday, September 2, 2024

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CEDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2024 AT 10:30 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Public Comments
- III. Approval & Adoption of CEDA Board Resolution 003-2024
- IV. Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
FRANCISCO M. RABAULIMAN
Chairman, Board of Directors

KINGFISHER GOLF LINKS

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

(1) FRONTDESK/OPN STAFF
(3) GROUNDSKEEPER
(1) ACCOUNTANT

Green Card / EAD Holders & U.S. Citizens are invited to apply

Application forms are available at the Front Office or you can send your resume to Josie C. Camacho at email address josie.kingfisher@gmail.com



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

Procurement of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Equipment (Supply, Install, Train, Test, Commissioning and Preventive Maintenance Service)

RFP24-CHCC/ CAS-027

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Crowne Plaza Resort to host Voices of the Marianas grand finals

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan will be the venue for the semifinals and grand finals of the Save the Music Foundation-CNMI's Voices of the Marianas singing competition.

The group made the announcement last week at the Garapan hotel where officials of STMF-CNMI shared their appreciation for Crowne Plaza Resort for their partnership.

"Establishing the partnership with Crowne Plaza has been one of the things that we've been trying to set up even before the whole season started," said STMF-CNMI



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Officials from the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and Save the Music Foundation-CNMI announced their partnership last Tuesday to host the Voices of the Marianas Singing Competition semifinals and grand finale at the Garapan hotel.

executive director and acting vice president Donovan Castro "The fact that we've actually ironed out the details

is overwhelming and we're very appreciative that they reached out and wanted to collaborate with us. We look

forward to doing more stuff with Crowne Plaza."

Crowne Plaza Resort general manager Clayton Darling-

ton shared the genesis of their team up with STMF-CNMI.

"This initially started with a catch-up with the Indigenous Affairs Office and the NMI Museum of Culture and History. The topic about the Voices of Marianas came up and we have this program called Giving for Good with IHG. This September we celebrate Giving for Good Month with IHG and we just thought the time was also perfect to form this collaboration and just play our part with the Voices of Marianas. Music, especially the arts, is extremely important among our local community, especially to our youngsters. We're happy to be a part of this and make a difference and continue our efforts in getting involved and forming these collaborations within the community," he said.

The competition's elimination round is scheduled for Sept. 7 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Supe and the semifinals and grand finals on Sept. 14 and 28, respectively, at Crowne Plaza Resort. Each show is

from 1pm to 6pm.

Castro shared that tickets should be on sale soon, but interested individuals can reach out to anyone from STMF-CNMI, or check out their socials on Facebook for more information.

"The competition this year has some great characters. There's this one guy that just sounds like an old soul, but he's so young, and I'm so surprised that he's singing at that range, and there's many others. I just want to leave it at that. You guys have got to buy tickets for this event to catch these guys, and it's not going to be livestreamed online."

IT&E unveils refreshed brand and new tagline



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This video grab shows IT&E celebrating the launch of its refreshed brand identity last Aug. 30 at its IT&E Oleai store.

IT&E, a leading telecommunications provider in the Marianas and Guam, is excited to announce the launch of its refreshed brand identity to reemphasize company's commitment to fostering meaningful relationships and enhancing the experiences of its customers and partners.

The updated brand identity includes refreshed visual elements, and a strategic emphasis on the tagline, "Connections That Matter." This tagline encapsulates IT&E's core mission: to create, nurture, and celebrate connections that make a significant

impact in the lives of individuals and in our community.

"Our brand refresh is more than just a new look; it's a reaffirmation of our dedication to building and sustaining connections to who and what matters the most, when it matters the most. Whether it's through our innovative products, customer service, or community initiatives, we are committed to making a positive difference. 'Connections That Matter' is not just our tagline — it's the foundation of our values and our promise to our customer," said Dave Gibson, CEO of IT&E.

Key elements of the brand refresh:

Updated visual identity: Our revamped color palette, typography, and design elements provide a cohesive and contemporary look across all platforms and touchpoints.

■ Enhanced customer experience: We are introducing new features and improvements to our products and services to better meet the needs of our customers.

■ Community engagement: We are strengthening our com-

mitment to community initiatives and partnerships that align with our mission of making meaningful connections.

IT&E celebrated this exciting new chapter last Aug. 30, 2024 with two events: a Blue Wave in front of the IT&E Oleai store at 8am and another Blue Wave at 5pm in front of the IT&E Oleai store.

IT&E has been serving the communities of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands for more than 35 years as a leader in wireless voice and data services and business solutions in the region. (PR)

ARMATECH
Parking Management System Installer
Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

DPS to conduct DUI sobriety checkpoints today

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI Department of Public Safety has announced plans to implement DUI (driving under the influence) sobriety checkpoints across Saipan today, Sept. 2, 2024. The initiative is part of DPS' ongoing effort to enhance public safety and reduce the risks associated with impaired driving especially during the holiday.

The first checkpoint will be set up along Chalan Pale Arnold in Chalan Lau Lau, specifically on the south-bound outer lane near Ambyth Shipping. This checkpoint will be active from 6:15pm to 7:30pm.

A second checkpoint will be established later in the evening along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero in Chalan Kiya, tar-

geting the westbound lane near the CUC Waterloo area. This checkpoint is scheduled to operate from 8:45pm to 10pm.

Assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon T. Manacop emphasized that the purpose of these checkpoints to promote public safety and raise awareness about the serious dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or certain medications.

DPS urges all residents and visitors to plan accordingly, whether designating a sober driver or using alternative transportation options. The department also encourages the community to remain vigilant and report any suspicious or dangerous driving behavior.

DPS extends its best wishes for a safe and enjoyable celebration across the island.

ISLA KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
(A:) Kagman III, (B:) Southern (San Antonio), (C:) Tinian

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Title: Chief Executive Officer
Salary Range: Up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate
Note: The salary will be based on the qualifications of the applicant

Opening Date: August 16, 2024
Closing Date: September 15, 2024
Location: 6690 Kagman Road

("This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number 22H80CS31624 for Health Center Program. This information, or content and conclusions, are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.")

Position Summary: We are seeking an exceptional leader to join our team as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This pivotal role involves steering the organization towards its strategic vision, ensuring operational excellence, and maintaining financial health. The CEO will oversee a robust team, manage substantial federal funds, and uphold compliance with all regulatory standards. Regular travel to the US and neighboring islands is required.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Develop and implement the organization's strategic goals in partnership with the Board of Directors. Foster a culture of excellence and community engagement.
- Ensure efficient daily operations, compliance with HRSA guidelines, and adherence to federal, and local CNMI regulations.
- Oversee a \$3 million budget, manage program income, and ensure compliance with funding requirements. Pursue additional funding opportunities and maintain financial transparency.
- Collaborate with the CMO to ensure high-quality medical services. Promote patient-centered care and best practices.
- Ensure compliance with laws and regulations, manage risks & oversee internal/external audits for the 340B Drug Program.
- Lead recruitment, development, and retention of a workforce. Foster and inclusive and positive work environment.
- Serve as the primary liaison to the Board of Directors, providing regular updates and supporting governance functions.
- Engage with regional partners & stakeholders, participate in industry conferences, and represent KCHC in the community.

Qualification Requirements:

- Education:** Master's degree in Healthcare Administration, Business Administration, Public Health, or a related field.
- Experience:** Minimum of 10 years of progressive leadership experience in healthcare management with at least 5 years in an executive role within an FQHC or similar organization.
- Skills:** Exceptional leadership, strategic planning, and financial management abilities. Strong understanding of healthcare regulations and compliance. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Requirements:** Commitment to the Kagman Isla FQHC's conflict of interest policy. **(Note: Immediate relatives of current employees or board members will not be considered for this position.)**

Benefits Package:

- Competitive Salary:** Depending on qualifications, up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate.
- Retirement:** 401(k) plan with company matching.
- Healthcare:** Medical, Dental & Vision
- Paid Time-Off:** 4 Weeks Paid Time-Off Annually

How to Apply: Applicants must apply in person at Kagman Community Health Center, 6690, Kagman Road
Note: Full Detailed Job Description Available Upon Request.

P.O. BOX 5723 CHR, SAIPAN MP 96950 - 6690 KAGMAN ROAD, KAGMAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, KAGMAN III
Tel: (670)256-5240/2/3/7/8 Fax: (670) 256-5244/9 <http://kagmanchc.org>

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Attorneys for Petitioner/Plaintiff Joaquin C. Sablan

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

JOAQUIN CHISATO SABLAN,	CIVIL CASE NO. 23-0203-CV
Petitioner/Plaintiff,	SUMMONS
vs.	
XIAO YAN CHEN INDALECIO, THOMAS HENRY ZHU INDALECIO, APRIL RITA ZHU INDALECIO, YVONNE ZHU INDALECIO, JASMINE ANA ZHU INDALECIO, EDWIN JOSEPH SABLAN INDALECIO, LUIS TAIMANAO INDALECIO, BRENDA ANN SABLAN INDALECIO, RITA INDALECIO REYES, FRANCES DANIEL, FRANCES T. DANIEL TUDELA, AND DOES 1-25, INCLUDING ALL PERSONS CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST IN LOT NO. 549-C,	
Respondents/ Defendants,)	

TO DEFENDANTS:
(1) APRIL RITA ZHU INDALECIO
(2) THOMAS HENRY ZHU INDALECIO
(3) YVONNE ZHU INDALECIO
(4) JASMINE ANA ZHU INDALECIO

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Clerk of Court for the CNMI Superior Court any answer you wish to make to the Verified Petition to Quiet Title and Complaint in Ejectment and Trespass in the above-captioned case ("Verified Petition"), a copy of which is available from the Clerk of Court for the CNMI Superior Court. You may also receive a copy of Verified Petition by contacting Plaintiff's attorneys:

BANES HOREY BERMAN & MILLER, LLC
P.O. Box 501969
4165 Beach Road, First Floor, Macararas Building, Garapan
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 789-8176
Email: cnmi@pacificlawyers.law

Your answer is due within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Summons in a newspaper of general publication in the CNMI. If you fail to file an Answer in accordance with the Summons, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Verified Petition.

Dated: this 22nd day of August, 2024.

/s/
Clerk of Court

Falling fuel prices result in decrease of FAC for September 2024

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. that there has been a decrease in the average international fuel oil prices which may affect the Fuel Adjustment Charge. Pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is required to adjust (increase or decrease) the FAC pass-through rate when the “Mean of Platts Singapore” monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

As a result, the current FAC rate will decrease by \$0.01154 per kWh, from \$0.24173 to \$0.23019 per kWh, effective September 1, 2024.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric rate, strictly for fuel and fuel-related purchases. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, debt services, or any non-fuel-related expenses. This base rate has not increased since April 2014.

To view the Schedule of Electric Charges and Rates for September 2024, visit CUC’s website at <https://www.cucgov.org/rates-and-tariffs/#electric>. (PR)

MAGOFNA

From page 1

agencies came out to the Garapan Fishing Base for a fun-filled day in celebration of Labor Day.

During the celebration, the CNMI government honored 19 individuals from different government entities in Saipan who were named “employee of the year”.

The overall Government Employee of the Year for Saipan was Magofna, who was not present during the event.

Meanwhile, Rota and Tinian also had their recognition ceremonies with Division of Emergency Medical Services’ Alfonso A. Reyes named Rota’s overall government employee of the year, and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs’ Jonovan H. Lizama being named Tinian’s overall government employee of the year.

Aside from the overall government employees of the year, the CNMI government also recognized others deemed “employee of the year” in their respective departments.

They are:

■ Mariano Aguon, Saipan Mayor’s Office, Field Operations heavy equipment operator supervisor

■ Albert Lee Tenorio Aldan, Dept. Of Fire & Emergency Management fire crew supervisor

■ Kenn L. Aldan, Dept. of Public Works, Division of Technical Services Federal Program coordinator

■ Jack Roman E. Aranda, Marianas Visitors Authority, Community Development Community Projects coordinator I

■ Judy I. Arriola, Dept. of Community & Cultural Affairs, Office on Aging Community Development technician

■ Florita S. Billy, Dept. of Commerce, Div. of Enforcement ABTC law enforcement officer I

■ Rikki C. Camacho, Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality, DEQ Federal Grants coordinator

■ Caitlyn Joan L. Crisostomo, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, library assistant I

■ Joaquin D. Diaz, Dept. of Public Lands, Div. of Planning surveyor II

■ Tina Marie Leon Guerrero-Camacho, Dept. of Lands & Natural Resources administrative officer III

■ Hensley Litulumar, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., administrative receptionist

■ Johanna K. Lizama, Dept. of Corrections, administration corrections officer I

■ Monica V. Manibusan, CNMI Scholarship administrative officer I

■ Porche P. Masga, Office of Personnel Management Human Capital Management specialist

■ Jose C. Naputi, Office of the Governor, HSEM State Warning point officer

■ Jeffrey I. Norita, Dept. of Public Safety police sergeant

■ Norlane Arlene V. Rafana, Dept. of Labor, Division of Labor Enforcement labor enforcement specialist III

■ John Yarofalir, MD, CHCC general surgeon

The nominating committee stated that to explain in detail the full extent of the enormity of work being performed by Manglona would be extremely difficult to do.

“In illustrating the degree

of work being performed by Magofna where to specifically quantify would be impossible at this point, more than 180 hours of her work time had been committed to transcription of interview documents from the Chinese to the English language alone. Furthermore, Magofna has been involved in over one 100 drug enforcement investigations that required her to produce reports as part of individual case file documentation activities,” the committee stated.

“In addition to the above, Magofna has often been called upon to assist other federal law enforcement agencies in their investigations because of her extraordinary skill-set in speaking both the English and Chinese languages. What’s important to note or recognize is that inspector Magofna has been made somewhat of a “workhorse” at her current assignment because of the rarity of the language skills she currently possess and given the unique high demand for Chinese translators. Magofna being a Customs and Biosecurity inspector also places her in an extremely difficult situation

when it comes to balancing her time from not just between time to complete law enforcement reports and transcribe re-

cordings but, finding the time to spend quality moments with her family at home,” the committee added.

JUDICIARY

From page 1

Sablan also disclosed in his *e-kilili* newsletter that more families in the CNMI will have the continued opportunity to request home visits from health providers after the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. was awarded this week \$1,458,860 in Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program funding.

The Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grants funding awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, is from an earmark that Sablan had included in the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science bill for fiscal year 2024.

The delegate said these funds will address the CNMI Judiciary’s security needs by reenforcing, hardening, and enhancing security measures at the Judiciary’s courthouse facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

He said this includes securing access points with door hardening and upgraded door lock keycard systems; installing advanced security cameras; installing perimeter fencing around the courthouses; and improving the holding cell elevator at the Guma’ Hustisia building in Susupe for the secured transport of detainees into the courtrooms.

According to the CNMI Judiciary, its current secu-

rity system and infrastructure are outdated, and with increasing caseloads and growing services, it is essential to enhance the courts’ surveillance systems and access control mechanisms.

Expected outcomes include the overall security enhancement at the Judiciary’s courthouses in the CNMI; reinforcing the initiative of safeguarding both court personnel and patrons; and continuing the Judiciary’s efforts to meet national standards by enabling the Judiciary to implement the recommendations provided by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Regarding the health home visits, Sablan said the five-year funding is particularly directed at pregnancy care, but also extends to infant and early childhood well-being.

He said the home-visiting program has been shown to improve maternal health and also prevent child injuries, abuse, and neglect, and prepare children to succeed in school.

Sablan said originally created as part of the Obamacare legislation in 2010, President Joseph Biden was able to extend this effective system to provide care for mothers and families with enactment of Public Law 117-328 in 2022.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, 216 Democrats voted to approve the legislation, 200 Republicans voted against.

BETTY

From page 1

U.S Environmental Protection Agency.

In an interview with Terlaje, although initially torn between her previous position and CFO, she decided to accept the CFO position as she saw this as an opportunity to further help CUC flourish financially.

“I was torn between my position [as chief of Adminis-

tration] and the CFO position because in both capacities, there’s a lot of work to do and there’s a lot of opportunities to drive the corporation growth and move forward. But in the capacity of the CFO, to wear that hat full time, I see that as an opportunity to drive financial growth for CUC,” she said.

“My primary focus would be the strategic and financial growth of CUC. We need to look for innovative ways to recover funds. We need to

keep CUC stable and allow it to grow in capital, infrastructure, and ways where we can be more efficient to be able to pass savings on to our customers,” Terlaje added.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the CFO position comes with an annual salary of \$145,000 plus benefits.

It remains unknown whether the same package was offered to Terlaje.

The CFO position is part of the federal court’s stipulated order which was vacated by

Greg Cruz and has been vacant since 2022.

Currently, the application process for the executive director for water and wastewater position is open and CUC continues to search for a new deputy executive director since current executive director Kevin Watson vacated the position last May.

Watson, who has been with CUC for about two years now, has served in his new capacity since June 1, and will serve for the next two years.

HNP

From page 1

The letter further explained that the program is significantly underfunded resulting in this suspension.

“Per Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands Public Law 22-33, the CHCC must operate the program ‘within budgetary appropriations.’ Unfortunately, the program continues to be significantly underfunded, with the last appropriation made in May 2024 via Saipan Local Law 23-15. Furthermore, a notice from the Office of Management and Budget said

that HNP funding would be reduced by 2.15% for the remaining months of the current fiscal year,” said the letter.

“We are truly sorry for the inconvenience of this unavoidable but necessary actions,” the HNP letter further stated.

Meanwhile, in a brief interview with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, he stated that he is addressing this issue and will be working on transmitting funds to CHCC for the continuance of the HNP program.

Saipan Tribune tried to get comments from CHCC but they have yet to release a statement.

According to an HNP

beneficiary who requested anonymity, the government should prioritize resolving this issue.

“We are seeking help, as this situation is very difficult for us. The governor and the government should prioritize this issue if they really have concern for our people. Sending us far away from home and with limited financial resources is hard, we don’t know how long the subsistence allowance will resolve, but it will surely affect each patient and escort that are depending to that weekly allowance,” they said.

Another beneficiary, who asked that their name be withheld from publication, stated

that they have no choice but to accept this suspension.

“We don’t have a choice because they said they don’t have funds so they have suspended the program. We are still thankful because our child’s Medicaid was not affected as it is a federally funded program. The HNP program was still able to provide us three months of daily allowance of \$30 for patient and \$30 for escort,” said the individual.

Beneficiaries interested in learning more about this suspension may contact HNP staff at (671) 685-5384 for Guam, 808-591-0648 for Hawaii, and 725-259-7688 for the continental United States.

WHAT

From page 2

under the Department of Public Health’s Noncommunicable Disease program, and was also a part of Comprehensive Cancer Control Program. In 2016, I joined DFEMS, and I’ve been with them for about eight years. Experience-wise, it’s been amazing, especially with the position I am in now. I get to take part of everything. Structure fires, vehicle fires, wildland fires, searching for missing persons, and HAZMAT situations, it’s

been really challenging and educational.

Along with being in DFEMS, I am also a service member in the United States Army Reserves, 100 Battalion 442nd Infantry Regiment Echo Company, been in since 2011. I feel that being in the military also helped me be more prepared for the mental and physical aspect of DFEMS. As for advice to others, I would say, to always keep learning and exploring your passion. There’s always something you can learn and pass on.

—Robert Mojica

More NMC nursing graduates pass NCLEX-RN

Northern Marianas College nursing graduates Maria Calma and Sean Apasan have joined the long list of NMC students who have passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN.

Nursing graduates must pass the NCLEX-RN to be able to practice nursing as a registered nurse.

The exam tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates to certify that they can apply entry-level nursing practices correctly.

NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan said, "We extend our congratulations to Maria and Sean on passing the NCLEX-RN Exam! Your dedication and hard work have paid off, and we are so proud of your achievements! We are eager for both of you to lead a bright and impactful future as registered nurses."

"The college is immensely proud of the ever-growing list of students who are passing the NCLEX-RN," NMC pres-

ident Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said. "Congratulations to Maria and Sean on passing this rigorous exam." Calma, a 2024 NMC nursing graduate, commemorates her pursuit of a nursing degree toward her childhood dream of caring for others and making meaningful impacts in their lives.

"From an early age, I felt a deep calling to support and heal those in need," she expressed. "This passion has only grown stronger over the years, driving me to pursue a career where I can combine my desire to help people with the scientific knowledge and skills required to provide exceptional care."

Throughout Calma's educational journey leading up to the exam, she highlighted the invaluable support from her family, friends, and mentors. Furthermore, she acknowledged the NMC nursing program staff and curriculum as an exceptional source of support as they provided hands-on learning through clinical

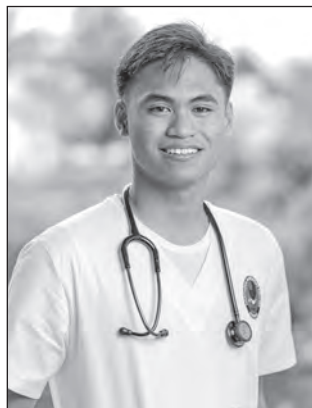


Calma

experiences and well-structured lessons.

"Additionally, I adhered to a structured study plan, using various resources and practice materials to strengthen my understanding and address my weaknesses. Above all, I am deeply grateful for the guidance and strength I received from God; His influence was a pivotal factor in my success," she said.

In advice to other NMC students planning to take the NCLEX, Calma stated that while the journey may be



Apasan

extremely challenging, the rewards are well worth the effort. She underlined the importance of a strong support network, as it will also make a significant difference in studies.

"Additionally, prioritize self-care and balance in your study routine to maintain your well-being," she said. "Perseverance, combined with a supportive environment and balanced approach, will help you navigate the path to becoming a successful nurse."

Apasan, a 2022 NMC nursing graduate, gets his passion

for the nursing profession from his desire to take care of people during times of need. Additionally, it was a profession that would allow him to financially provide for his family and himself.

"I would like to first thank my family, my girlfriend, my past instructors, and many others who supported my journey towards passing the exam. Their unyielding support was a large moral boost for me personally and ultimately drove me to pass the exam," Apasan expressed.

He also believes that his position as a graduate nurse at CHCC's Psychiatric Unit was a factor that contributed toward his successful passage of the exam, as this experience allowed him to physically be in situations that are often simulated in the NCLEX.

Apasan noted that through NMC's nursing program, he was able to utilize preparation tools such as Kaplan resource materials and clinical experiences. "I would also have to

commend the instructors of the program as they were really knowledgeable and passionate about teaching all there is to know about nursing," he said.

In his message to students who are planning to take the NCLEX, he urges them to not give up.

"Effort combined with just the ability to never give up will serve you well in passing the exam as well as future endeavors. Finding out what works for you in regards to learning the content is also equally important as what works for other people might not work for you," he stated. "Be positive and believe in yourself as you are so close to becoming an RN."

Calma and Apasan are both in the process of applying for RN positions within the CNMI's local healthcare industry.

For more information about NMC's nursing program, email Aldan at rosa.aldan@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6744. (PR)

Marianas Eagles Club, Marianas Lady Eagles Club mark 1st year

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD

raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Marianas Eagles and Marianas Lady Eagles clubs held a masquerade-themed event to celebrate their first anniversary last Aug. 25 at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Twenty lady eagles present were awarded with certificates of appreciation, namely Norlyn P. Cabrera, Josefina C. Camacho, Leilani M. Catungal, Rowena V. Coloma, Mary Grace I. Cruz, Ana Lisa F. Delos Reyes, Elenita P. Duarte, Elena M. Enriquez, Gemma M. Eugenio, Racquel H. Floyd, Donata U. Fronda, Leilanie A. Garcia, Roxanne R. Layugan, Malaya C. Magno, Irene L. Marquez, Marilou P. Masilungan, Mildred P. Pabilando, Adela B. Sanchez, Edilwisa S. Viana and Roxanne R. Layugan.

The Marianas Lady Eagles Club was faced with several challenges during its initial year, including obtaining funding, according to MLEC president Mildred Pabilando.

"Many of our members are overseas Filipino workers, making it difficult to coordinate due to individual commitments related to family, work, and other important responsibilities. Like any new organization, we encountered various trials, but our strong bond as sisters kept us united. We built this club with a deep appreciation for one another, creating not only a supportive community but also a name we proudly represent. Despite



Marianas Eagles and Marianas Lady Eagles clubs held a masquerade-themed event to celebrate their first anniversary last Aug. 25 at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.



Twenty Lady Eagles—Norlyn P. Cabrera, Josefina C. Camacho, Leilani M. Catungal, Rowena V. Coloma, Mary Grace I. Cruz, Ana Lisa F. Delos Reyes, Elenita P. Duarte, Elena M. Enriquez, Gemma M. Eugenio, Racquel H. Floyd, Donata U. Fronda, Leilanie A. Garcia, Roxanne R. Layugan, Malaya C. Magno, Irene L. Marquez, Marilou P. Masilungan, Mildred P. Pabilando, Adela B. Sanchez, Edilwisa S. Viana, and Roxanne R. Layugan—were presented certificates of appreciation.

the hurdles, we demonstrated our resilience during our first anniversary, showcasing the strength of our camaraderie," said Pabilando.

She said despite the challenges, they have successfully launched several initiatives.

"We organized community

outreach programs, held local tournaments, and established partnerships with local businesses to promote sports among young women and men, including a summer billiards camp under the Pacific Amusement and Saipan Billiard Association."

Pabilando added that the community service they have initiated include assisting the Department of Youth Services with programs like Brain Builder and report child abuse and neglect, a gift-giving event for two schools—Loving Hands Day Care and

Golden Harvest International Day Care, hosting a Zumba Marathon Extravaganza, collaborating with nine Zumba instructors to promote health and wellness that featured free health screenings for blood sugar and blood pressure with Ernie Molina of CHCC, and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The program was opened with acknowledgements from Marianas Eagles Club president Edwin Elayda, MLEC president Mildred Pabilando, and Saipan-Guam Eagles district governor Marcelo Masilungan.

beach cleanups.

The masquerade-themed event was opened with the acknowledgements from MEC club president Edwin Elayda, MLEC president Mildred Pabilando, and Saipan-Guam Eagles district governor Marcelo Masilungan.

"We should continue to develop a deep sense of brotherhood and sisterhood with respect for one another," said Masilungan.

A video message from the TFOE (PE) est. 1979 National president Jeffrey Maravilla was played during the event.

The chartered Marianas Eagles Club and the Marianas Lady Eagles Club are composed of members from different walks of life, an epitome of the "No High, No Low" organization with the motto of "Service Through Strong Brotherhood."

The Marianas Eagles Club and Marianas Lady Eagles Club were chartered on June 25, 2023.

Leon Guerrero selected to explore ocean aboard exploration vessel Nautilus

Erica Jonette C. Leon Guerrero from Oregon State University has been selected as a 2024 Ocean Science Intern in the Science & Engineering Internship Program and will sail aboard Ocean Exploration Trust's Exploration Vessel (E/V) *Nautilus* during its 2024 expedition season. Leon Guerrero, originally from Saipan, was selected as one of 16 interns from hundreds of applicants and will join the team aboard E/V *Nautilus* in September to explore deep-sea habitats around American Samoa in collaboration with the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa and other partners.

"What excites me most is primarily being part of this expedition," said Erica Jonette C. Leon Guerrero. "I'm eager to discover the

wonders of the deep sea, learn all it has to offer, build connections with fellow explorers, and contribute to such an extraordinary team."

Ocean Exploration Trust, a nonprofit founded by Dr. Robert Ballard, operates with a mission to explore the unknown parts of the ocean, seeking out new discoveries across the fields of geology, biology, and hydrography while pushing the boundaries of STEAM education and technological innovation using remotely operated vehicles, autonomous vehicles, and sea-floor mapping technologies. The team has traveled around the world helping understand the deep ocean and sharing discoveries live with the world through NautilusLive.org.

People worldwide can engage with Leon Guerrero and

the explorers onboard via NautilusLive.org, a 24-hour live-streaming web portal bringing expeditions from the field to explorers on shore via telepresence technology and social media. Local schools, summer programs, and community groups are encouraged to schedule free, live one-on-one Q&A sessions with explorers on the ship available daily.

About the Ocean Exploration Trust

The Ocean Exploration Trust was founded in 2008 by Ballard to explore the ocean, seeking out new discoveries in the fields of geology, biology, maritime history, and archaeology while pushing the boundaries of STEAM education and technological innovation. Our international



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oregon State University and 2024 Ocean Science Intern in the Science & Engineering Internship Program Erica Jonette C. Leon Guerrero.

program is launched from aboard the Exploration Vessel *Nautilus*, offering live exploration to participants on shore

and the public via live video, audio, and data feeds. Learn more about Ocean Exploration Trust.

The 2024 E/V *Nautilus* expeditions are sponsored by NOAA Ocean Exploration via the Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and Ocean Networks Canada. OET education program sponsors and partners for 2024 include the Office of Naval Research, National Geographic Society, NOAA Ocean Exploration via the Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute, CITGO, QPS, and the Phil Stephenson Foundation.

Its ongoing Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute partners include the University of Rhode Island, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the University of New Hampshire, and the University of Southern Mississippi. Learn more about our partners and sponsors. (PR)

Ninth Circuit: Cockfighting ban legal in CNMI under federal law



KIMBERLY ESMORES

File photo of the old local cockfighting arena along As Lito Drive during a cockfighting derby.

By SAM RIBAKOFF
Courthouse News Service

An agreement establishing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and its relationship to the United States means that a ban on cockfighting is legal under federal law in the territory, despite a proponent claiming the ban intrudes on residents' right to self-governance, a panel of Ninth Circuit judges ruled last Tuesday.

Andrew Salas, at one time a House representative for the Commonwealth, called cockfighting an important cultural and political activity throughout the islands that had been wrongfully prohibited by the Agriculture Improvement Act—signed into law by

President Donald Trump in 2018—and goes against the covenant that allows the territory a unique level of self-governance.

Writing for the panel, U.S. Circuit Judge Lucy H. Koh, a Joe Biden appointee, wrote in the ruling that "Congress is not precluded from passing legislation affecting the internal affairs of the CNMI. Rather, a court must 'balance the federal interest to be served by the legislation at issue against the degree of intrusion into the internal affairs of the CNMI.'"

Based on a section of the covenant that establishes laws in effect in the U.S. in January 9, 1978 when Northern Mariana Islands' covenant was passed, Koh said the

federal government's interests in animal welfare and controlling the spread of avian flu outweighs any degree of intrusion into the territory's internal affairs.

1966's Animal Welfare Act was amended in 1976 to ban interstate commerce involving animal fights, so the act is still applicable to the territory under the 1978 covenant, she wrote.

Part of the Agriculture Improvement Act banned all forms of animal fighting throughout the 50 states and its territories in 2018. As cockfighting had already been outlawed in all states by 2008, Salas said the act targeted the territories.

A federal judge dismissed

the case in November 2022, finding federal interests in animal welfare and interstate commerce outweighed intrusion on the commonwealth's internal affairs. Salas then appealed to the Ninth Circuit.

"The court's ruling is obviously a disappointment, but here in the CNMI we've known for a long time that the defense of our right to self-government is a long, rough road, so in that sense it isn't really a surprise," wrote Joseph Horey, Salas' attorney, in an email.

The Commonwealth's self-governance was a concern for U.S. Circuit Judge Richard A. Paez, who ultimately concurred with the other judges that the ban on cockfighting

does not intrude on the internal affairs of the territory, but disagreed with the application of the section of the covenant they used in the ruling.

One of the guiding principles of the covenant is the right to self-governance, the Bill Clinton appointee said, and by using a different section in the ruling, it allowed some legislation to "escape the reach of" a section of the covenant that determines the applicability of laws enacted after January 9, 1978.

In this case, Paez said he would interpret any ambiguity in the covenant "in favor of the CNMI and its people," and "ensure that its provisions 'reaches all federal 'legislation,' including subsequent



Koh

amendments to laws in existence on January 9, 1978" which would further protect the right to self-governance.

"To close, when the United States and the people of the Northern Mariana Islands came together to ratify the covenant, they enshrined in that document the CNMI's fundamental right to self-government," Paez wrote. "We are faced here with the question of just how committed we are to upholding that promise," Paez wrote.

However, Paez still found that Salas failed to demonstrate that the Animal Welfare Act and the 2018 ban on cockfighting intruded on the affairs of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Ninth Circuit panel was rounded out by George W. Bush appointee U.S. Circuit Judge Milan D. Smith Jr.

"Although Judge Paez' concurrence also came to the wrong conclusion in the end, his analysis is thorough and well-reasoned most of the way, and it encourages us to consider seeking en banc review," Horey said.

Salas had also argued that the Animal Welfare Act should have also exempted Guam, another U.S. territory, from the law's prohibition on cockfighting, and that the 2018 amendment to the law was motivated by Congress' subjective moral objections to the practice. Koh disagreed that the law was not applicable to Guam and therefore not applicable to the commonwealth.

Because Guam as a U.S. territory falls under the definition of a "state," "a statute that references the United States and its territories and possessions is a strong indication that it is meant to apply in the CNMI," Koh wrote.

She also added that past precedent had already established the ban was also legal in Guam. In 2020, a federal court in Guam denied a man's motion seeking an injunction to prevent the government from enforcing a ban on cockfighting, finding that "nowhere in the 'Bill of Rights' does it give plaintiffs the right to cockfighting." In 2021, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the lower court's ruling.

A spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Justice declined to comment on the case.



What to know about Labor Day and its history



United Auto Workers members walk in the Labor Day parade in Detroit, Sept. 2, 2019. AP

By JAMIE STENGLE
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP)—From barbecues to getaways to shopping the sales, many people across the U.S. mark Labor Day—the federal holiday celebrating the American worker—by finding ways to relax.

This year is the 130th anniversary of the holiday, which is celebrated on the first Monday of September. While actions by unions in recent years to advocate for workers are a reminder of the holiday's activist roots, the three-day weekend it creates has become a touchstone in the lives of Americans marking the unofficial end of summer.

Here's what to know about Labor Day:

How did Labor Day become a federal holiday?

Its origins date back to the late 19th century, when activists first sought to establish a day to pay tribute to workers.

The first Labor Day celebration in the U.S. took place in New York City on Sept. 5, 1882, when some 10,000 workers marched in a parade organized by the Central Labor Union and the Knights of Labor.

Workers were seeing their quality of life decline as they transitioned from arti-



Shoppers look for school supplies deals at a Target store, July 27, 2022, in South Miami, Fla. AP

san to factory jobs, even as the quality of life of factory owners was “just skyrocketing,” said Todd Vachon, an assistant professor in the Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations.

In the years that followed, a handful of cities and states began to adopt laws recognizing Labor Day. President Grover Cleveland signed a congressional act in 1894 making it a federal holiday.

That was the same year that workers for the Pullman Palace Car Company went on strike after the railcar-maker cut wages without reducing rent in the company-owned town where workers lived near Chicago, Vachon said. Over 12 workers were killed after Cleveland sent

federal troops to crush the strike, he said.

Cleveland's move to establish Labor Day as a federal holiday is seen by some historians as a way for him “to make peace” with the working class after that, Vachon said.

What do Americans do over Labor Day weekend?

For the three-day weekend created by Labor Day, travelers pack airports and highways for end-of-summer escapes, and backyard chefs prepare cookouts for family and friends.

Barbecuing has been a part of Labor Day celebrations from the start, said Robert F. Moss, food writer, culinary historian and author of

“Barbecue: The History of an American Institution.”

He said it was already such an entrenched tradition in the U.S. that when the labor movements developed in the late 19th century, it was natu-

ral to way to celebrate as large groups gathered. In the 20th century, the holiday's barbecues moved more toward gatherings of friends and family in backyards, he said.

“It still has a lot of that same

communal sense, gathering around the grill, eating together,” he said.

Vachon said that whether the origins of the labor movement are on one's mind while

See **WHAT** on Page 9

HAPPY LABOR DAY

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Serve your Labor Day burgers with a skirt of crispy cheese



This image released by Milk Street shows a recipe for pita burgers with crisped cheese.

By **CHRISTOPHER KIMBALL**
Christopher Kimball's Milk Street

pan to brown and crisp.

Pita Burgers with Crisped Cheese

Start to finish: 40 minutes
Servings: 4

Ingredients

1 pound 90 percent lean ground beef
¼ cup chopped drained dill pickles OR sweet pickled peppers OR a combination
2 tablespoons yellow mustard
Kosher salt and ground black pepper
Two 8-inch pita breads, cut into half rounds
½ medium red onion, thinly sliced
8 slices sharp cheddar OR American cheese
1 tablespoon neutral oil

Directions

In a medium bowl, combine the beef, pickles, mustard, 1 teaspoon salt and ½ teaspoon pepper; mix thoroughly with your hands. Let stand for about 15 minutes to allow the meat to lose some of its chill.

Open each pita half to form a pocket. Fill each half with a quarter of the meat mixture, spreading it to the edges, then lightly pressing on the outside to flatten. Into each pita pocket, tuck a quarter of the onion, followed by 2 cheese slices; it's fine if the cheese peeks out of the pita and if the bread forms cracks. Brush the pita halves on both

See **SERVE** on Page 9

Today, we honor all our everyday heroes and celebrate their hard work, perserverance, and excellence that move our community forward.

HAPPY LABOR DAY!

From the management and staff of

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

WHAT

From page 7

celebrating depends on whether they live somewhere with a large union presence.

In Chicago, a parade and festival are held over Labor Day weekend in what is now the Pullman neighborhood, home of the holiday’s roots. Bob Reiter, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, said the parade and festival they host brings in union members and their families from all over the area.

How has the labor movement evolved over the decades?

When Labor Day became a federal holiday in 1894, unions in the U.S. were largely contested and courts would often rule strikes illegal, leading to violent disputes, Vachon said. It wasn’t until the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 that private sector employees were granted the right to join unions.

Later into the 20th century, states also began passing legislation to allow unionization in the public sector. But even today, not all states allow collective bargaining for public workers.

In recent years, Vachon said, there’s been a resurgence in labor organizing, activism, interest and support.

“A lot of the millennial and Gen Z folks are coming into the labor market in a period that’s not a lot different from that period in the 1880s where there was a lot of labor unrest,” Vachon said. “Jobs just don’t pay enough for people to achieve the American dream.”

What’s the connection between fashion and Labor Day?

The adage that one shouldn’t wear white after Labor Day is a “rule” that’s broken with very fashionable results, but where did it originate?

Fashion experts say it likely goes back to the Gilded Age—the same period in the late 1800s that spawned Labor

Day. The cool, white frocks worn by wealthy New Yorkers during their summers in places such as Newport, Rhode Island, would be packed away on their end-of-summer return to the city with its dirt-packed streets.

Christy Crutsinger, a professor in merchandising and digital retailing at University of North Texas, heard the adage from generations of women in her family. But “the fashion world’s not working that way anymore,” she added.

“People think it, say it, but don’t abide by it,” she said.

With back-to-school shopping and a switch by many business people from a more relaxed summer dress code, fashion is on the mind of many around Labor Day, said Daniel James Cole, adjunct assistant professor in fashion history at the Fashion Institute of Technology and co-author of “The History of Modern Fashion.”

The holiday, he said, “is kind of this hinge” between summertime dress and fun to going “back to more serious pursuits.”

SERVE

From page 8

sides with the oil.

Heat a 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium until droplets of water flicked onto the surface quickly siz-

zle. Add 2 of the stuffed pita halves and cook until golden brown on the bottoms, about 4 minutes. Using a wide metal spatula, flip and cook, adjusting the heat as needed, until golden brown on the second sides and the exposed cheese is browned and crisp,

about 3 minutes. Transfer to a platter or individual plates. Cook the remaining pita halves in the same way.

EDITOR’S NOTE: For more recipes, go to Christopher Kimball’s Milk Street at 177milkstreet.com/ap

On this Labor Day, we celebrate the spirit of teamwork that drives our commitment to health, happiness, and a greener world.

HAPPY Labor Day

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Happy Labor Day

to Our Valued TakeCare Members in the CNMI!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

On this Labor Day, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the hardworking individuals and families across Saipan. Your dedication, resilience, and contributions are the backbone of our community. As we take a moment to honor your efforts, we are reminded of the strength and unity that define the CNMI.

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Wishing you a restful and joyous Labor Day!

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HAPPY LABOR DAY

From the management and staff of



Pastimes

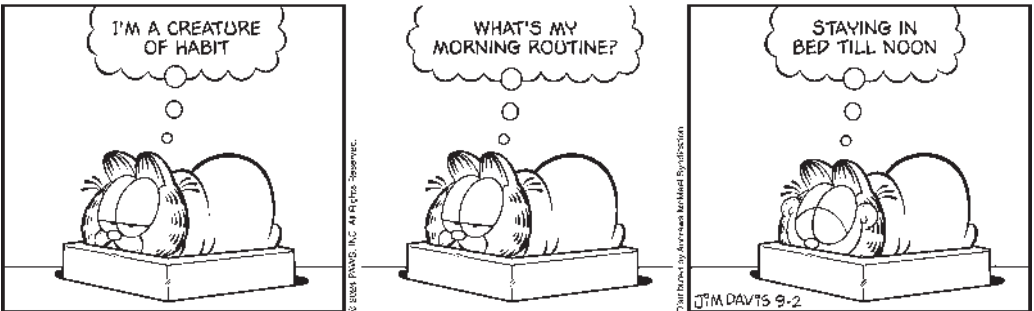
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis



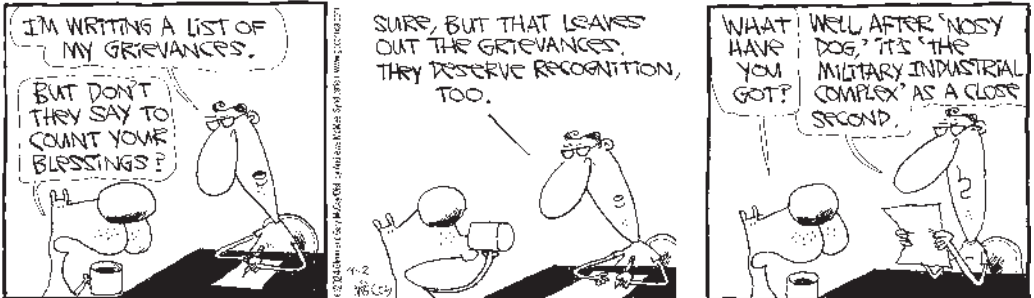
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cain's dad

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DOWN

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43 Bailiwick

44 Halt

46 Writer Ephron

47 Union payment

48 Does tailoring

50 Where Lux. is

Solution time: 21 mins.

Last Friday's answer 9-2

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zedd, 35; Salma Hayek, 58; Keanu Reeves, 60; Mark Harmon, 73.

Happy Birthday: Mixed emotions will promote a desire for change. Consider what you can afford and how to de-stress your life by following your heart and doing what brings you peace. It's time to put yourself first and encourage others to do the same. The choice is yours, so don't let anyone else determine your next move. Make common sense and taking responsibility for your happiness a priority. Your numbers are 3, 10, 16, 27, 32, 36, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look around you and observe before you decide to implement change. Ensure you have the funds necessary to follow through with your plans and the documentation to avoid implications from authority figures or antagonistic neighbors. Be open and proactive, and exercise your right to pursue your plans. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Inconsistency will be your downfall. Surpass your expectations by choosing a path and following it through to the end. Don't let anger lead to exhaustion, stress, or the loss of friendship, position or prospects. Put your energy where it counts and make positive progress. Rely on your instincts. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take responsibility. Don't go overboard or make promises or excessive overtures that compromise your chance to do something that makes you happy, healthy or free to live life your way. Rule out proposals that limit an opportunity to learn something new. Be the author of your destiny. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Size up what everyone around you is doing and adjust your path to avoid situations that

may compromise your chance to reach your goal. Think creatively, be spontaneous and act on your behalf instead of letting someone intervene or pressure you. Protect your health and physical wellness. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take better care of your money and possessions. Don't overpay for something that is more hype than help. Research will help spare you the grief of appearing unrealistic. Look for the positive, be aware of the negative and make affordable, doable choices that offer peace of mind. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The route to a better future is to simplify your life. Lower your debt and put your energy into transforming chaos into peace. Change begins with you; making time for activities and people that bring you joy will make a difference and soothe your soul. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A change is overdue; it's time to rethink what you know and do well so you can apply it to what's trending in today's marketplace. Think outside the box and transform the way you present your assets. Anger and negativity won't help; try dedication, hard work and a good attitude. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): What you put out, you will get back, if you do so with compassion and your best intent. Take pride in what you do and care for those you love. Choose your words wisely and you will make a difference. To do your best is to receive your best. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sit on the sideline, observe and summarize how best you can respond. Offering your opinion about a concern too quickly will be counterproductive. Get all the facts and only voice your opinion when ready to act. Look for inconsistency and ask questions to differentiate fact from fiction.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Protect your reputation. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Establish your cost of living and revise your budget to fit your lifestyle. Staying on top of financial matters will help calm your nerves and encourage you to invest more time and money into viable prospects. Use your imagination, but rely on facts and practicality. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Rethink how you want to live and adjust your schedule, budget and mindset to help fulfill your dreams. A change to how you use your funds will make a huge difference. Once you decide what's important to you, the rest will fall into place. Personal growth is favored. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Know when to be secretive and whom to share with before revealing your plans. Domestic issues are apparent if you are too aggressive or forthcoming regarding your thoughts and plans. Bide your time, and consider how you present your long-term plans. ***

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, caring and helpful. You are comprehensive and pragmatic.

☺: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☺☺: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☺☺☺: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☺☺☺☺: Aim high; start new projects. ☺☺☺☺☺: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer



Difficulty: ★ 9/2
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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CRICKETS Solution: 8 letters



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Bark, Beach, Brown, Bugs, Burrowing, Bush, Catch, Caves, Cerci, Chirping, Cracks, Cri-Kee, Culture, Decay, Diet, Eggs, Forest, Forewings, Fruit, Fungi, Grasslands, Hopping, Insect, Jars, Jimmy, Leaves, Limbs, Loud, Meadow, Molting, Nocturnal, Ovipositor, Plant, Pronotum, Rubbing, Scavenger, Last Friday's answer : Antigua

The NEW Volume 77 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Another crack at it: Jack Smith's new Trump indictment shouldn't have been necessary

Special Counsel Jack Smith has filed a new indictment against Donald Trump's attempts to interfere in the 2020 election, an effort to comply with the Supreme Court's dangerous immunity decision from July, holding that presidents cannot be criminally investigated or prosecuted for so-called official acts.

The four counts remain, with the main distinction being that the new document jettisons Trump's meddling with the Justice Department and focuses mostly on his attempts to lean on state and local officials to rig the election on his behalf. This is wise for the simple reason that such acts are clearly outside of even the most expansive view of presidential authorities, and are plenty well-evidenced enough on their own. It's a shame that this is even necessary.

This cat and mouse game is frankly embarrassing for our country; the counts are the same because the alleged crimes themselves haven't changed. All that's happened is that the Supreme Court has made the offenses harder to prosecute, not just against Trump, but any president who chooses to use the powers of the office for acts that run counter to the public interest and the oath of office.

That's a problem that we'll have to deal with more straightforwardly sometime soon, but for now, it's still important to hold Trump accountable for the acts that we all watched, heard and experienced him committing.

It is worth reiterating that there is plenty of evidence that Trump actually did what he's accused of. Trump was recorded trying to have the Georgia secretary of state falsify that state's vote count. Trump has been tied by testimony that he conspired to have slates of fake electors cast their counterfeit ballots for him. Trump was on camera whipping up the crowd that would go on to march on the Capitol, and he did tell the Proud Boys and other potentially armed extremist groups to "stand by." It's on video, in transcripts, in investigative documents, all laid out in sordid detail.

What we're really arguing about here, then, is if all this conduct should result in criminal charges and a public trial that could end with the former president being convicted. That's the concept of no one being above the law. There is no free pass for holders of high public office. The rule and all that, right? Otherwise, then what? What comes after we say that a president can stage a coup?

Still, the justices get the last word and they have ruled and now Smith, following their edict, has responded based on the new (and we still contend, wrong, limits). Not prosecuting a former president on clear transgressions over strained legal technicalities is not better than not doing so for more explicit partisan reasons, and indeed the court has already derailed the possibility that this

See ANOTHER on Page 13



Lock him up? Donald Trump's crimes present a challenge for Kamala Harris' campaign

When Hillary Clinton referred to Donald Trump's 34 criminal convictions during last week's Democratic National Convention, a loud chant of "Lock him up!" arose from the crowd. Clinton, the target of countless "Lock her up!" chants stoked by Trump eight years ago, permitted herself a nod and a smile.

There's no gainsaying the hunger of many in the crowd at Chicago's United Center, and of Democrats across the country, to see Trump behind bars. They wish it for many reasons: as con-dign punishment for his crimes against democracy, the subject of a new federal indictment filed Tuesday; payback for his exploitation of the criminal justice system for his own ends; petty vengeance against an obnoxious antagonist; and a means of ridding the country of his toxic presence.

The yearning to see Trump brought down is one component of the wave of enthusiasm that has so dramatically boosted Kamala Harris' candidacy over the last month. In fact, Harris has stoked that desire in at least a limited way. Her standard stump speech includes the sure ovation bait, "I took on perpetrators of all kinds. ... So hear me when I say: I know Donald Trump's type."

Speaker after speaker at the convention likewise brought up Trump's list of proven and alleged crimes. They also repeatedly invoked Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation agenda suggesting Trump intends to convert the Department of Justice to an instrument of political retribution against his enemies.

But for Harris, a top official in the government carrying out two of Trump's prosecutions, her supporters' lust to see Trump locked up is a tricky topic. There is a fine but crucial distinction between calling out Trump's criminal conduct and calling for him to be "locked up." To date, she has been able to walk that tightrope effectively.

When the vice president confronted the same chant at political rallies in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania earlier this month, she was quick with a response that was markedly different from Clinton's: "We're gonna let the courts handle that. Our job is to beat him in November."

Politically and ethically, that was precisely the right answer.

It's right partly because of the clear contrast with Trump. It immediately puts Harris on the opposite side of the spectrum from Trump's animating spirit of petty nastiness.

More than that, calling for the imprisonment of one's political opponents—particularly when, as with Clinton, they have not been charged with or convicted of any crime—is a defining trait of a banana republic. And as the scholars Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt have persuasively documented, Trump's first term pulled the United States sharply in that direction.

In addition, even the slightest tangible sign of official support for incarcerating Trump is likely to breed complications in the actual cases. Trump would seek to leverage it to support his claim

By **HARRY LITMAN**

Los Angeles Times

Harry Litman is the host of the "Talking Feds" podcast and the "Talking San Diego" speaker series. @harrylitman.



that the charges against him amount to a political railroading.

Most important for the current campaign, Harris' careful retort to the crowd brandishes her institutionalist credentials. Our democracy is designed to depend on neutral arbiters—namely, the courts—to deprive citizens of liberty, not the say-so of a ruler. That principle is especially fundamental to a prosecutor—the professional experience Harris is leading with as a candidate—who must not confuse her zeal with the law's judgment.

It's particularly fitting for Harris to insist on confidence in the courts. Their reputation—especially the Supreme Court's—has declined precipitously in the Trump era based on the growing perception that they can be bent to the will of the powerful.

Harris is announcing to the country that although she is seeking power, she believes her power should be constrained by the checks and balances that Trump openly flouted—even if her supporters might wish it otherwise for the purposes of punishing an adversary.

Harris' stance is not a given. Unlike Clinton in 2016, Trump is a convict as well as a criminal defendant in three additional cases. Harris could take the position that now that a jury has decided his guilt, a judge should impose a certain sentence—or that he deserves to be convicted in the other cases against him. But that too would put her in the role of telling the courts what they should do. Avoiding that appearance is more important—and more commendable—than revving up Trump haters.

Harris has been performing other delicate balancing acts in her young campaign: talking tough on borders but welcoming legitimate asylum seekers; affirming Israel's right to exist but calling for an end to hostilities in Gaza; embracing President Biden while presenting herself as the change candidate.

Of course, one problem with walking a high wire is that your opponent can try to knock you off. And we can expect Trump and his surrogates to continue to suggest that Harris is trying to "lock him up" for political purposes.

But as a longtime prosecutor, Harris is well practiced at leveling harsh accusations while insisting on the indispensable institutional role of juries and courts in the ultimate decisions. That experience should continue to serve her well.

Trump keeps flip-flopping on abortion. American women are so over it

A friend of mine is having problems with her ex. Charismatic, rich and famous, and also can't commit.

Back in 1999, when he was first infatuated with my friend—let's call her "Choice"—he went on "Meet the Press" and told the nation over and over that Choice was the one for him.

Then, when he started thinking about public office again in 2011, he split up with Choice and started dating Pro-Life.

It happens. And breakups can be ugly. But this guy went to an extreme.

By 2016, Donald Trump (you guessed the guy was Trump, right?) was suggesting women should be punished for exercising their right to choose. After the House passed a national ban on abortion in 2017, this guy not only applauded the bill but also spent a good chunk of 2018 trying to get the Senate to follow suit. In fact he was the first sitting president to address the March for Life convention, saying "send it to my desk for signing." It was a handful of votes short.

Hard to believe. I don't know what Choice ever saw in the guy, because he's all over the place.

"American women are not stupid," Sen. Elizabeth Warren said recently about this presidential election, noting that 14 states have essentially banned abortion since Roe vs. Wade was overturned by Trump-appointed justices. "We are not going to trust the futures of our daughters and granddaughters to two men who have openly bragged about blocking access to abortion for women all across the country."

In 2022, he crowed about what his Supreme Court had done. Now it's 2024, and he's struggling to meet younger women at the polls, so he's back to making empty promises to impress Choice—with his campaign claiming he would veto any national ban. This from the guy who almost managed to push one through.

Total user.

He had his wingman, Sen. JD Vance, go on "Meet the Press" on Sunday to clarify the former president's history with Choice—something that had to be done only because he has been in and out of the relationship for 25 years.

"It's important to step back and say, 'What has Donald Trump actually said on the abortion question?'" Vance said.

OK, let's do it.

In 1999, on "Meet the Press" when Trump was considering a run for the White House, then-host Tim Russert asked him whether he would ban abortions, and he said he would not.

In fact, Trump repeatedly said he was pro-choice. Even "very pro-choice."

But to win the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, he couldn't be. So, he dumped Choice and said those who seek an abortion should have "some form of punishment." One Trump term later, and that is the reality facing 2 in 5 women in this

country. That's why I keep wondering why Choice would trust him again.

Or anyone like him. Because it must be said: The chaos that has ensued since Roe was overturned is not only Trump's fault.

Republicans targeted that decision for 50 years, and for the most part, with the same amount of critical thinking and thoughtfulness demonstrated by Trump. One member of Congress, Todd Akin, infamously said pregnancies caused by rape need not be excluded from abortion bans, because "if it's legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down." That was in 2012. A decade later, to receive an abortion, a 10-year-old rape victim in Indiana was reportedly forced to travel to Ohio.

Vance, who will never be in a position to make that choice himself, wasn't happy about it.

"Look, I think two wrongs don't make a right," he said regarding exceptions for rape or incest. He also used the word "inconveniences" when characterizing the decision. As if carrying a pregnancy to term would be a mere "inconvenience" to a fifth-grader.

This weekend on "Meet the Press," Vance also said: "No Re-

By **LZ GRANDERSON**

Los Angeles Times

LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



publican with any reasonable power is saying that we should have a complete national abortion ban," despite the fact that for 40 years a federal abortion ban has been part of the Republican Party's platform.

It was removed just last month, at the request of Trump. He is trying to get back together with my friend Choice so he can get back in the White House.

But Choice needs more than talk. Choice needs a partner who is willing to commit.

Prosecuting parents won't stop school shootings

Did the parents of Dimitrios Pagourtzis, who as a teenager in 2018 shot and killed 10 people at a Texas high school, bear any responsibility for his crime? Earlier this week, a jury found they owed no damages to the families of the slain. That would seem to be the end of that.

Some observers immediately pointed out that the outcome of the civil case makes criminal charges against Antonios Pagourtzis and Rose Marie Kosmetatos less likely. The context suggests that this result might be lamentable.

I'm not so sure. Prosecutors, I know, are as angry and sick to heart as the rest of us that these shootings never seem to stop. I'm just not sure that locking up the parents is the best fix.

The puzzle over when, if ever, parents ought to bear legal responsibility for the violence of their children has been with us for a long while. Laws holding parents liable (in civil damages) for at least some of the torts of their children go back to the nineteenth century. But criminal charges have long been the exception rather than the rule. Until recently, when a mother or father was punished at all, it was typically not for the crime the child committed, but for what amounts to bad parenting.

In a headline-grabbing 1947 case, a 14-year-old New York City boy named Frankie Rivera used a stolen .22 caliber rifle to shoot and wound three bystanders. His mother, found in a bar, was arrested. After being convicted of contributing to her son's delinquency, she was sentenced to a year in jail.

The newspapers reported that in the wake of her conviction, a couple of dozen parents telephoned city authorities to report the suspicious activities of their own children, including a mother who "reported her son had built himself a 'weapon.'" If the high-publicity prosecution was intended to have a deterrent effect, it seemed to work, at least in the short term. (The conviction was later reversed on technical grounds.)

Another case arose in 1989, when Los Angeles police arrested one Gloria Williams on charges of "failure to exercise reasonable care, supervision, protection and control" over a child after her teenage son's alleged involvement in the rape of a 12-year-old girl. According to press reports, a search of Williams' apartment yielded, among other items, a birthday cake decorated with the name of a gang and "photograph albums showing members of the Williams family pointing guns." The victim told police that she had been kidnapped from the Williams back yard. The charges were later dropped, and activists pointed at the case as an example of the ways that "parental responsibility" laws would land most heavily on women and the urban nonwhite.

Nevertheless, for the past century or more, this is how it has been done. If a child commits a terrible act, in most cases the family was left alone. If the parents suffered any sort of criminal punishment, it was not for the child's act; it was for either neglect or contributing to the delinquency of a minor. They were at fault, in other words, not for what their child had done, but for somehow raising a son or daughter capable of so heinous a crime.

That consensus broke down earlier this year, when, in separate trials, James and Jennifer Crumbley were convicted on charges of involuntary manslaughter resulting from their son Ethan's 2021 slaying of four students at a Michigan high school. Ethan was sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole; unless the verdicts are overturned on appeal, his parents will serve a minimum of 10 years each.

That outcome was celebrated by many observers, on the theory that locking up the parents might provide sufficient deterrence

By **STEPHEN L. CARTER**

Bloomberg Opinion

Stephen L. Carter is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, a professor of law at Yale University and author of "Invisible: The Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster."



to finally put a stop to the horror of school shootings. And it's true that something needs to be done. But is putting the parents behind bars the right something?

Even if the Crumbleys deserve jail time, I'm far from the only law professor to worry that for an ambitious prosecutor armed with this new hammer, "everything can look like a nail." If we prosecute the parents of school shooters, why not the shooter on the street? If the shooter on the street, why not the stabber, the threatener, the mere bully?

One might reply that the Crumbleys displayed an unusually egregious recklessness not likely to arise in other cases. And, indeed, the jury in the civil suit against Antonios Pagourtzis and Rose Marie Kosmetatos must surely have been swayed in part by the testimony that they kept their firearms locked in a gun safe and a cabinet. If that level of care is enough to avoid civil liability, it would probably be enough to avoid criminal liability as well.

Nevertheless, prosecuting parents presents other risks. After the aforementioned arrest of Gloria Williams, critics argued that a just society would not criminalize poor parenting skills. Another concern at the time was that parents with difficult kids might choose "to sever ties with their children rather than risk a criminal penalty."

And parents aren't the only people responsible for how children turn out. If children in foster care commit crimes, would state foster agencies be liable? And what about school officials—should they face criminal punishment as well? Perhaps we'll soon find out. In the wake of the horrific 2023 episode where a six-year-old in Newport News shot his teacher, the assistant principal of the elementary school where the crime occurred was indicted for felony child abuse, after allegedly ignoring warnings that the boy was carrying a gun. Her trial is set for February 2025.

Let me be crystal clear. I'm not defending the level of neglect that leads to adults overlooking signs that children might be dangerous. I'm only suggesting that an automatic let's-lock-them-up response doesn't do justice to the complexity of the problem.

ANOTHER

From page 13

case will move forward before the election, leaving the American electorate to cast their ballots without the benefit of having seen the case presented against him in a court of law.

So we commend Smith for not being dissuaded and moving forward with this indictment, even as we rue that the court has misguidedly immunized past or future efforts to weaponize the Justice Department. We'll take the accountability we can get, for now.

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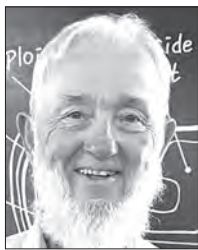
Between the immensities

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.



"There will be no peace: Fight back, then, with such courage as you have and every unchivalrous dodge you know of. Clear in your conscience on this: Their cause, if they had one, is nothing to them now. They hate for hate's sake."—W.H. Auden

Barrio boulevards and backyard battlegrounds

Finding exits and entrances on lost highways
a hard time remembering bygones and byways
few delays or detours on the road to perdition
yellow brick roads lead some to contrition
hiking a tempestuous trail towards sinning
surmountable mountain trails towards winning
through boomer boom towns paved with glory
to grim ghettos filled with misery a tragic story
broad streets bands parades cheerful sunlight
dark streets of sin gin and women of the night
from superstar super rich sidewalks of fame
to homeless crack addicts on sidewalks of shame
the corner of Truth Boulevard and Senescent Alley
we all descend into the living hell of Death Valley.



NEW YORK (AP)—Brendan Donovan hit a three-run homer, Kyle Gibson pitched seven strong innings and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the New York Yankees 6-5 on Saturday for their first regular-season win at Yankee Stadium.

It was the first victory for St. Louis in the Bronx since Tim McCarver hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning in Game 5 of the 1964 World Series and Bob Gibson pitched a complete game in a 5-2 win. The Cardinals improved to 1-7 at Yankee Stadium in the regular season.

St. Louis went ahead to stay with four runs in the third against rookie Will Warren (0-3). Nolan Arenado hit a tying RBI single before Donovan connected for his 11th homer. It was his first three-run drive since July 23, 2023.

CUBS 5, NATIONALS 3 WASHINGTON (AP)—Nico Hoerner had two hits and scored two runs, and the Chicago Cubs beat sloppy Washington for their fifth straight win.

Javier Assad pitched six innings of three-run ball as Chicago won for the eighth time in nine games overall. The Cubs (70-66), who are trying to make up ground in the race for the last NL wild card, also improved to 18-8 in August.

RAYS 11, PADRES 4 ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Touted rookie Junior Caminero hit a three-run homer, José Caballero had four RBIs and Tampa Bay

Cardinals hold off Yankees for a 6-5 win



AP
St. Louis Cardinals third baseman Nolan Arenado, top, tags out New York Yankees' Gleyber Torres, bottom, after a rundown during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, Aug. 31, 2024, in New York.

beat San Diego.

Caminero went deep against Randy Vásquez (4-7) in a four-run second inning to help Tampa Bay take a 5-2 lead. Baseball's top-ranked prospect has three homers and seven RBIs in 17 major league games.

TIGERS 2, RED SOX 1 DETROIT (AP)—Tarik Skubal allowed one run in eight innings and struck out eight to become the fourth Detroit left-hander with 200 strikeouts in a season as the Tigers celebrated the franchise's 1984 World Series championship with a win over Boston.

Jack Morris threw the ceremonial first pitch to Lance Parrish, and Skubal (16-4) gave a performance that would have

fit onto Morris' resume. He allowed Tyler O'Neill's first-inning homer, but Boston only managed three singles the rest of the way.

PIRATES 3, GUARDIANS 0 CLEVELAND (AP)—Rowdy Tellez hit a two-run single in the eighth inning, and Pittsburgh beat AL Central leading Cleveland.

Luis Ortiz (6-4) pitched six innings of one-hit ball in his first win since July 20. The right-hander struck out five and walked three, helping Pittsburgh stop a four-game slide.

RANGER 3, ATHLETICS 2 ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Leody Taveras hit a game-

ending single with one out in the ninth inning and Texas beat Oakland.

The bases were loaded when Taveras grounded a single through the middle and past a drawn-in infield, sending pinch-runner Ezequiel Duran home with the winning run.

ASTROS 5, ROYALS 2 HOUSTON (AP)—Yusei Kikuchi struck out 12 in seven innings to lead Houston Astros to a win over Kansas City.

Kikuchi (7-9) improved to 3-0 with a 2.57 ERA since he was acquired by Houston a day before the trade deadline. He gave up five hits, only allowing Kansas City a run on a fielder's choice grounder that followed two singles in the seventh. He threw

101 pitches, including 75 for strikes and walked none.

BLUE JAYS 15, TWINS 0 MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Toronto hit three two-run homers, including two in a seven-run first inning, and José Berrios tossed six shutout innings as the Blue Jays routed Minnesota.

Daulton Varsho and Spencer Horwitz each hit two-run home runs in the first inning off Twins starter Zebby Matthews (1-2), giving the Blue Jays a 4-0 lead just four batters into the game. Toronto scored three more runs in the inning off Matthews to take a 7-0 lead before Minnesota's bats ever got to the plate.

PHILLIES 3, BRAVES 0 PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Zack Wheeler pitched seven shutout innings to earn his 100th career victory, Edmundo Sosa homered, doubled and drove in two runs and Philadelphia defeated Atlanta.

Trea Turner also went deep for NL East-leading Philadelphia, which increased its lead over the Braves in the division to six games. The Phillies have won six of eight.

METS 5, WHITE SOX 3 CHICAGO (AP)—Pete Alonso and Jesse Winker hit back-to-back home runs in the first inning and the New York Mets beat the skidding White Sox, handing Chicago its 106th loss to tie a franchise record.

The Mets (72-64) won their

third straight and moved with-in two games of Atlanta for the final NL wild card. New York has won eight of 12 to climb eight games over .500 for the first time this season.

BREWERS 5, REDS 4 CINCINNATI (AP)—Jackson Chourio hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the ninth inning, and Milwaukee beat Cincinnati for their fifth consecutive win.

The 20-year-old Chourio had three hits and scored twice as the Brewers reduced their magic number to 16 for clinching the NL Central title.

MARLINS 4, GIANTS 3 SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Griffin Conine hit his first career home run and Miami beat San Francisco.

Conine, the son of longtime Marlins stalwart Jeff Conine, made his major league debut Monday and got his first hit Tuesday. His first homer was a two-run shot off the right-field foul pole in the second inning, when he ripped a fastball up in the zone from Giants starter Mason Black to give Miami a 2-0 lead.

ANGELS 5, MARINERS 4 ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Mickey Moniak hit two home runs over the final three innings, including a game-ending solo shot in the ninth, to rally the Los Angeles Angels past Seattle.

Joe Adell also homered twice for the Angels, who won for just the second time in 10 games. Ben Joyce (2-0) pitched a scoreless inning to earn the win.

Sinner never gives opponent hope of an upset like those against Djokovic and Alcaraz



NEW YORK (AP)—Jannik Sinner never gave his third-round opponent at the U.S. Open on Saturday, Chris O'Connell, even a moment to contemplate pulling off the sort of monumental upset that eliminated Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz.

"It shows that this sport is unpredictable. Whenever you drop a little bit of your level—if it's mental, if it's tennis-wise or physical—at the end, it has a huge impact on the result," Sinner said. "Both opponents who they lost against, they played some incredible tennis. And it happens."

Not to the No. 1-ranked Sinner, who is suddenly the favorite to win the men's championship at Flushing Meadows. He won the first five games and 21 of the first 29 points to make quite clear how things would go at Arthur Ashe Stadium and wrapped up a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 victory over O'Connell in under two hours.

"I felt like he was on from the get-go," O'Connell said. "I

felt a little bit clueless, to be honest. ... Every single shot, I just felt like I had to do something with it, because he was just on me. He was suffocating me."

Stepping on court less than 15 hours after Djokovic's loss to Alexei Popyrin, and two days after Alcaraz's loss to Botic van de Zandschulp, Sinner was as dominant as can be in every facet of the sport. With 23-time major champion Serena Williams watching from an Ashe suite, Sinner struck 15 aces. He never faced a break point. He won five of O'Connell's 12 service games. He finished with more than twice as many winners, 46, as unforced errors, 22.

"The best tennis player I've ever played, for sure," the 30-year-old O'Connell said.

The only past men's champion at the U.S. Open still in the bracket is 2021 winner Daniil Medvedev.

"For sure didn't expect to have this in the fourth round when Novak and Carlos are here," Medvedev said after

beating No. 31 Flavio Cobolli 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. "So it's a fun feeling from one side, but from the other side it's a new tournament. I need to play my best to try to win it again."

The No. 5 seed will next face Nuno Borges, who was a point away from elimination at 6-3 in a fourth-set tiebreaker, then rallied to beat Jakub Mensik 6-7 (5), 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (6), 6-0.

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek, who counts the 2022 title at Flushing Meadows among her five Grand Slam trophies, beat No. 25 seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-4, 6-2 to reach the fourth round of the U.S. Open for the fourth straight year.

Earlier Saturday, Jasmine Paolini joined Coco Gauff as the only women to reach at least the fourth round at every major in 2024, getting that far at the U.S. Open for the first time with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over No. 30 seed Yulia Putintseva.

The fifth-seeded Paolini was the runner-up at the French Open in June and Wimbledon in July and next meets 2023 French Open finalist Karo-

lina Muchova. Also advancing were No. 6 Jessica Pegula, No. 16 Liudmila Samsonova, No. 18 Diana Shnaider and 2018 Australian Open champion Caroline Wozniacki.

Since losing the first set he played in New York, against Mackie McDonald—which also was the first set Sinner had played since news emerged of a doping case that involved two positive tests in March for trace amounts of a banned anabolic steroid—the 23-year-old from Italy has performed impeccably, dropping a total of 18 games across nine sets.

Trying to collect his second Grand Slam title of the year after gaining the first of his career at the Australian Open in January, Sinner will face No. 14 Tommy Paul of the United States in the fourth round on Monday. Paul defeated Canadian qualifier Gabriel Diallo 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (3).

"He's a great mover. He has improved a lot in the last period of time. It's going to be a tough challenge," Sinner said

about facing Paul, a 2023 Australian Open semifinalist. "He plays some great tennis, especially here in America."

Perhaps there was some wariness on Sinner's part heading into Saturday, given recent events. This is, after all, only the third time in the Open era (the others were in 1973 and 2000) that two of the top three seeded men were gone before the fourth round.

So Sinner woke up as the man considered likeliest to win the U.S. Open, a status that belonged to No. 3 Alcaraz—the champion at the French Open and Wimbledon this season—before the tournament began. No. 2 Djokovic—the defending champ and owner of a men's-record 24 major trophies—moved atop the odds when Alcaraz was sent home Thursday night, only to relinquish that after his own early exit Friday night.

The 87th-ranked O'Connell harbored hope of producing yet another surprise, even if he's never beaten a member of the top 10 or been past the

third round at a Slam.

What van de Zandschulp and Popyrin did allowed O'Connell to dream of producing something similar against Sinner.

"I mean, yeah, I've got to believe," O'Connell said, "but I just felt that he was really on fire."

There is something quite difficult about trying to follow up one career-best win with another, and van de Zandschulp didn't really show up on Saturday, eliminated by No. 25 Jack Draper 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Draper, a 22-year-old left-hander from Britain, never has been past the fourth round a major, and neither has his next opponent, unseeded Tomas Machac, a 6-3, 6-1, 6-2 winner against David Goffin.

"After the match (against Alcaraz), it was a little bit crazy," van de Zandschulp said. "You try to think about the next match but you get reminded a lot of the match the day before. So of course it was tough to play today after the last two days."

Youth participate in 2-day Grind hoops camp

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER



The youth took the opportunity to participate in the first Grind Basketball Camp on Saipan, which was run by former Japanese-American professional basketball player from Guam, Morgan Hikaru Aiken, over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Last Saturday, the first session featured eight high school boy cagers, while the second session was a mix of young girls and boys.

The drills that Aiken implemented in the camp were dribbling, ball handling, a read-and-react offensive/defensive drill, layups, and a mini half-court game with no dribbling.



LEIGH GASES

Youth participants of the first Grind Basketball Camp on Saipan pose for a group photo with coach Morgan Hikaru Aiken, far right, on the first day of camp last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

He shared in an interview after the first session that the boys that came out were “really talented and you could see that they really love basketball. I can see the passion is there and I feel that’s where it starts, versus

having parents just push or force the sport on them.”

He said that in his years of coaching and training kids, the No. 1 thing for him is to find passionate kids. “You see that here because they love the

Then he took off about mile seven. So then from there, I just tried to speed up my pace.”

For Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., he said that the turnout was great with close to 140 registered participants.

The last two years, the race was done at the end of the year, but he said that they will most likely keep the August race date again for next year as it’s less hectic in the race/running scene on Saipan.

“I just appreciate everyone that registered to show support for Run Saipan, and I appreciate everybody that showed up this morning and had fun,” he said.

As for the support of runners from Guam, he said, “it was good having off-island competitors come and they registered pretty early. They registered about, like, three months out. So, thank you.”

“Thank you to our major sponsor, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., for sponsoring 50 runners for Immunization Month. This is the third race of the year that our hospital has committed to sponsor for a healthier

lifestyle for the community with us,” said Dela Cruz.

He then thanked their sponsors Cha Café, Atkins Kroll Saipan, IT&E, Aqua Resort Club, The Water Company, the Office of House Speaker Edmund Villagomez, the Office of Vice Speaker Joel Camacho, the Office of Rep. Thomas John Manglona, and the Office of Rep. Malcom Omar.

He also thanked their volunteers, race staff, partners: Northern Marianas Athletics, the Department of Public Safety, Marianas Visitors Authority, HD Weightlifting Academy, Saipan Southern High School Interact Club, Red Cross-NMI Chapter, and Interact club.

And, he thanked *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety* for the coverage. The Half Marathon was also the first Run Saipan race where Shirley’s Coffee Shop fried rice was served at the finish line for runners.

Results of the concurrent 5K men/women’s division and age group divisions of the Run Saipan Half Marathon will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

vious tournaments. But this tournament, I was like, ‘wow.’ I was really amazed by how the players did on each team.”

He said of their semis against 4 Starz, “it was not just hard, it was extremely hard. 4 Starz of course really wanted to take the championship and in two previous tournaments, we lost to them, so it was really, really good to finally beat them.”

Then in the finals against Bench Warmers, he said, “We never played against the Bench Warmers throughout the entire season, but coming into this game, I told them, ‘if we were able to beat 4 Starz, what more can we do with the high school players that we’re going against this championship,’ So I told them that we just play how we played from the previous match and bring it to this match—all positive vibes, and we’re good to go.”

With their team, he said the new players—Toves, Satur, and Rodriguez—were the key pieces that were missing because of their ability to defend the net.

On winning the championship, he said, “Oh, my goodness, this is the first time I felt the fruit of my hard

work. I was like, ‘wow, this tournament really made me push 200%.’ So yeah, on behalf of my team, I love my team. Everybody showed passion towards the game and especially towards reaching the championship. And, yeah, I’m really proud of everyone.”

4 Starz then thanked their family and friends, the Open Gym kids, and their sponsors Agape Christian School, Speaker Edmund Villagomez, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Alex and Neil, The Angry Penne, Inas Kitchen, Brabu Pharmacy, Pacific Islands Club, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, The Athlete’s Foot, McDonald’s of Saipan, Coca Cola, Hybrid, 3HIGH-RES, Mar Pac Distributors, Gold’s Gym, Latte Built Gym, and National Office Supply.

4 Starz is a volleyball group that was formed last year, with an homage to its president Nak Nakashima’s roots—the Federated States of Micronesia and Japan—hence the four stars within the sun of Japan’s flag in their logo. The four stars represent the four FSM states, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Yap.

game. They want to be here, they want to learn, they want to improve. And I feel like that’s a stepping stone to improving and maximizing potential.”

Aiken, who is the first Guam high school graduate to sign a professional contract to play basketball overseas in the Japan Basketball League and later in the B.League, had a talk with the participants during the camp in which he told them that yes, it’s practice and as much as he doesn’t want unforced errors, they’re there to improve.

“We’re going to make mistakes, but mistakes are things that we’re going to learn from. So, be comfortable making mistakes, you just have to be able to adjust,” he told the boys. “The last thing I told them was to ask questions. If I’m explaining a drill and they don’t understand it, I don’t want them to go through the motions just because I’m coaching.”

The 30-year-old added that if there was one thing he wanted participants to take away from his camp, it’s that the little details matter.

“Focusing on the little details every day kind of adds up to the big picture, as in, you’ll get to a place where all these little habits that you’re fine tuning and fixing leads you to become the best middle school, high school or college player,” said Aiken. “It’s not one major thing where it’s like, oh, you could do this really well—but it’s a lot of little things. Especially with basketball, there’s so many aspects to work on, from defense to offense to awareness to cardio, to movement. But it’s the little things that really matter that start separating yourself from another athlete. And then now, when you combine those and you look back, you’ll say ‘I came a long way.’”

He then said that he might come down to Saipan for more camps

about every three months, but that, “I feel like I could definitely do maybe three or four two-day camps within the year. That’s definitely something I would want to do in the near future. So, I definitely want to continue this. I feel like as a trainer, I’m able to learn too, because every athlete, every player, is different. And as a trainer, it helps me grow seeing how each and every athlete acts and responds. Even if it’s similar drills, everybody’s different.”

Azzy Fatialofa, NMI women’s national team pool player, joined the second session and said that it was a good experience for her. “It was an honor to be learning from a professional player. The drills he had for us were fun and a way to keep us on our feet. Through each break he gave us advice as players to take with us through our journeys as basketball players. This opportunity was something I wouldn’t forget and I’m going to use it to my advantage,” she said.

As for Enzo Sasamoto from Mount Carmel School, he said the camp “was very tough, but it means that we’re going to improve. If it was easy, we’re not going anywhere. We learned a lot of new things and it really helped us with our IQ of the game and our conditioning.” The 14-year-old said that his favorite part of the camp was the last 4v4 no dribble game. “It really helped us with our offball movement, off ball screens, and passing,” said the MCS boys varsity basketball team hopeful.

Participants of the camp with Fatialofa and Sasamoto included Jay Pineda, Peyton Basa, David Apatang, James Matsumoto, Kian Helgen, Jared Villagomez, Niko Paul, Lance Lero, Mike Mercado Jr., Patricia Matsumoto, Liam Sablan-Wilson, Jener Pineda, and Aaleyah Fatialofa.

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was a member of one of six teams that started the tournament in 2005 in Salem, Oregon.

“It started in 2005 with just a group of friends,” said Peter, who played with the Island Boys in the inaugural tournament in Oregon.

He said chairman Sablan and Schwarz, who are running this year’s event, played too in the first tournament.

Peter, who is playing for the Taya Gua in the Masters Division, said watching the men’s open league, where they started, is great.

“It’s amazing seeing all these kids and young adults,” he said.

Lee said in this annual event, everyone from the CNMI who are residing all over the United States, just come over here so it’s a great moment to catch up with old friends and meeting people as well from Saipan or the CNMI in general.

“My son is going to school at UNLV [University of Nevada Las Vegas] going on his second year. Another excuse for me to come down too,” Lee said.

Hocog said it’s just such a great event here in the U.S. mainland where people from the islands home gather and enjoy the sports of softball.

Hocog said it’s amazing to see people visit their families and friends

and just reconnect to the people who have left home.

“There’s a lot of teams. I’m rooting for everybody. May the best teams win. But I think what’s most important is the collaboration and you know the teamwork and the sportsmanship all the teams exemplify here,” she said.

The mayor said she believes for many of them it’s not really the competition, but about more so the gathering of friends and families.

“It’s just a friendly, healthy competitive sports,” Hocog said.

Gonzales said this is his second or third trip to “meet the diaspora” of residents from Rota, Saipan, Tinian, and the Northern Islands living around the states.

He said every year they have this exciting gathering of diaspora of CNMI residents living abroad to celebrate Labor Day through the love of softball, baseball.

“It gets bigger and bigger every year and this year Vegas is hosting it. And it only behooves us to come and visit and say hi again on top of the fact that I’m also running for U.S. Congress as an independent. It’s great way to reconnect to the family first and foremost, and families too from Guam actually are here and so I’m so excited,” Gonzales said.

Gonzales is among the six candidates running for CNMI delegate in the Nov. 5 general elections.

PILOT

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definitely up there with the top.”

As for 24-year-old Mailed who works out of Guam, she decided to join the race with her coworkers as they are on Saipan for the weekend.

She said her goal since last year was to join a half marathon or marathon, and this was her first half marathon race—and topped it off with a first-place finish.

With that, she said, “I’m honestly surprised, but I am extremely grateful that I get to move my body this way and have the opportunity to travel and see new places, and also keep my body moving. I know that fitness at an early age really sets the tone for your fitness throughout your life.”

As for the course, she said, “I’m glad that we left earlier. The weather was really nice, and it wasn’t too bad in terms of elevation. I think I was trying to keep up with one of my coworkers, because he ran cross country in college, and so for at least half of it, I sustained his pace.

BOMBA

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one powerful unit.

Bench Warmers actually led early in the second set, but Nuyles’ serves brought them to an 11-11 tie. From there, the momentum shifted into The Bomba’s favor as their hard-hitting kills and multiple errors from the Bench Warmers made it a 19-15 game in favor of The Bomba.

When it seemed like Bench Warmers were on for a comeback rally at 19-23, Matias’ serves—along with well-placed kills by Manzon and Salas—and the team’s air-tight defense at the net allowed them to take it home by three points, 25-22.

The Bench Warmers included Mokyang Kim, Jia Hao Yang, T.J. Saures, Omari Joab, Dwight Crisostomo, Kyle Kramer, Kyle Moon, Jasper Hall, Minsoo Kwon, Seth Tababa, and Seth Hong.

Manzon, who was the captain of The Bomba said of the tournament, “it was a really a great one because, to be honest, coming into the tournament, I thought I expected the same level of playing style from the pre-



Cardinals
hold off
Yankees for
a 6-5 win

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participate
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pilot, engineer take off in half marathon

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

An airline pilot and a U.S. Army engineer decided to join the 3rd Annual Run Saipan Half Marathon and placed first in their respective divisions last Saturday.

Just in time for the Labor Day weekend, the 21.1-kilometer/13.1-mile course from the former Hyatt Regency Saipan's Club Elan parking lot to the Marpi softball field and back was topped by James Munnis, a United Airlines pilot based on Saipan, with a time of 1:42:15.

Second was Joel Phair at 1:43:21, while third place went to Raven Lantz with his time of 1:50:56.

In the women's division, U.S. Army engineer Moira Mailed crushed it and clocked in at 1:54:50. Second place was Krista Hawley at 1:59:55, and third was Run Saipan mainstay Ann Bang at 2:12:41.

Munnis cannot only fly high in the sky, but he can also run fast on land. The nearly 60-year-old is no stranger to joining long distance races as



LEIGH GASES

First place overall, James Munnis, left, poses with first place in the women's division, Moira Mailed, in the 3rd Run Saipan Half Marathon last Saturday from the former Hyatt Regency Club Elan parking lot to the Marpi softball field and back.

he's joined marathons, ultra marathons, 50Ks, and 50-mile races before. With this race, he said that he felt really good about his first-place win.

He grew up in Florida, so he was used to Saipan's heat, and said that he actually did not lead the race the whole time, but was in third place for a bit.

He added that he joined the race with his wife, Hawley, who placed second in the women's division. He said that she did really well and that it was "awesome" to have joined the race with her. They plan to join the Rota Marathon together next year. He and Hawley moved to Saipan last



Munnis

January from West Virginia.

As for the event, he said, "[Run Saipan] is awesome. They do so much with very little. All these volunteers are



Mailed

awesome. The support they get from the community is incredible. In the states, you see a lot of the same, but this is

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The Bomba explodes into 1st place of 4 Starz men's division



LEIGH GASES

Champion team The Bomba poses for a group photo with their trophy and prizes during the awards ceremony of the Inaugural 4 Starz Fall Fest Volleyball Tournament 2024 last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

The Bomba exploded into the final round and won it all in the men's division of the Inaugural 4 Starz Fall Fest Volleyball Tournament 2024 last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.

The Bomba took down host and veteran team 4 Starz in the semis and faced off against Bench Warmers, which was a mix of players from different high schools, for all the marbles.

The Bomba, which was also a mix of high school players and recent graduates, ended their run in the tourney with a bang of just two sets, 25-23, 25-22.

The first set saw an intense exchange of firepower from

both sides. Throughout the whole match, emotions were high and it got heated as the points were a back-and-forth battle of ties and one-point advantages until the very end of the first set.

The Bomba's John Matias then served the final two points to secure the 25-23 win over the Bench Warmers.

The second set was also a fiery display of skill and want for the championship. However, The Bomba's Matias, K.C. Nuyles, Jerome Manzon, Jermaine Salas, Bernard Villagomez, Merriek Toves, Frankie Satur, Clarence Rodriguez, and Joseph Ito showcased their individual skills and talent, but meshed together into

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Record 35 teams compete in Labor Day softball tourney



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A total of 35 teams will compete in the 2024 19th CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament that kicked off last Friday at the Sunset Park in Las Vegas, Nevada.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Over a thousand people showed up at the opening of the 19th Annual CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament, in which 35 total teams in three divisions participated in a friendly competition held at the Sunset Park on Sunset Road in Las Vegas, Nevada last Friday.

After the 5pm opening ceremony, games immediately started in the three fields located in the park. As of press time yesterday, games were still ongoing. The championship games, awarding, and banquet will be held at the park today, Sunday (Las Vegas time).

Rota Mayor Aubry Manglona Hocog, John Oliver Reyes "Bolis" Gonzales, former representative Marco Peter, and Northern Mariana Islands

Basketball Federation president James Lee were among those who watched the opening of the three-day tournament.

James Sablan, who chairs the 2024 19th CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament, said there are 27 teams in the men's division, five in the masters' division, and three in women's for a total of 35 teams.

Sablan said the last time Las Vegas hosted the tournament

there were 32 teams, so this year they have surpassed that record.

"The 19th CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament is the biggest one here in Las Vegas. I'm definitely happy with the turnout," he said.

Sablan said they have teams from all over the West Coast and even a team from back home in the CNMI made it.

Washington has been select-

ed to host the big tournament next year.

John Schwarz, of the host ISAO 6-7-Old 2 team, said this is an annual event that brings together the CNMI people that are in the U.S. mainland and also teams from back home on Saipan.

Schwarz said it's a way of getting everyone together or reunion with families and friends.

"We travel from state to

state yearly, Washington, Oregon, Las Vegas, California, and Arizona. This is a beautiful turnout as you can see there's probably a thousand people here or more and we're just happy to host and have a good time and great weekend," he said.

Winners will get trophies and bragging rights.

Former lawmaker Marco Peter, who just flew in to Las Vegas to join the tournament,

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